



**State of Illinois**  
Bruce Rauner, Governor

**Illinois Department of Transportation**  
Randall S. Blankenhorn, Secretary

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## **IDOT Launches Statewide Listening Tour to Discuss Illinois Infrastructure Needs, Priorities**

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Transportation, in conjunction with the Illinois Capital Development Board, announced today the start of a series of listening sessions over the next month to discuss the state’s infrastructure needs and the steps required to make sure the right investments are being made to keep Illinois competitive in a 21<sup>st</sup> century global economy. The meetings will be held in multiple communities throughout the state, with a goal of presenting Governor Rauner’s office with a comprehensive package of recommendations for consideration this spring.

“With a world-class system of roads, transit systems, airports and railroads, Illinois is rich in transportation infrastructure, but we are at a crossroads. This asset makes us stand out, but it is beginning to deteriorate and in need of reinvestment,” said Acting Illinois Transportation Secretary Randy Blankenhorn. “These meetings with the Capital Development Board are a listening tour to help us rebuild and craft a plan going forward that allows Illinois to continue to serve as the transportation hub of North America and build top-notch state facilities so we can grow our economy and improve our quality of life”

The initial meetings will be announced in the coming days. Future dates and locations will be updated regularly at [www.idot.illinois.gov](http://www.idot.illinois.gov).

At each stop, the objective will be to engage residents, businesses, local leaders and various stakeholders in identifying the infrastructure challenges we face and setting the priorities for investing now and for future generations. Among the topics that will be addressed are establishing needs and priorities, improving deteriorating roads, bridges and transit systems, providing better access across multiple transportation modes and reinvesting in state facilities, such as schools and state parks.

“I look forward to hearing the views and thoughts on transportation from the broad spectrum of people who make up our great state,” Blankenhorn said. “The time to rethink our transportation goals and priorities is now. Inaction is no longer an option.”



# Illinois Department of Transportation

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Dear Infrastructure Stakeholder:

Our infrastructure plays a critical role in driving Illinois' economy, strengthening our communities, and improving residents' quality of life. As the transportation hub of North America, the ability to move people and goods efficiently drives our competitive advantage – an advantage we stand to lose if we don't make strategic investments in our transportation and infrastructure network. We depend on your leadership and assistance as we begin a new statewide discussion on our broad infrastructure needs in an effort to advance a capital program.

The commitment required to simply maintain our existing infrastructure systems is significant and the longer we wait to address it, the more expensive that remediation becomes. Without renewed attention, over the next six years 40 percent of Illinois highways and one in seven bridges will be in unacceptable condition. Pavement condition will continue to deteriorate, leading to rough roads that damage cars and make us less competitive. The transit network's bus and rail system will not be adequately overhauled, leading to less reliable and underutilized service. School and other key state construction projects will continue to lag behind and fall into disrepair.

For these reasons, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), in coordination with the Capital Development Board (CDB), will lead a series of statewide listening sessions beginning next week to engage our residents and local leaders from the public and private sectors in identifying challenges and setting priorities for a sustainable path forward. We welcome your participation in these meetings to highlight critical needs and strategic goals. At these events, we will focus discussion around state and local infrastructure challenges, as well as establish priorities for future investment. For more information about events in your area, including dates and locations, please visit our website at [www.idot.illinois.gov](http://www.idot.illinois.gov).

While our maintenance needs are significant, we are looking for input on what criteria we should consider in order to make transparent, performance-driven decisions on investments to repair, modernize, and expand our transportation network. We are also seeking input about addressing freight congestion, providing better access across transportation modes, improving deteriorating roadways, bridges, transit, and airports, and advancing other state construction needs.

In these financially challenging times, it is essential that we responsibly invest in infrastructure projects that can drive the economy and improve the lives of our residents. The people of Illinois deserve a reliable transportation network that provides access to housing, jobs, health care, schools and other vital destinations. Infrastructure that supports our water and park systems, as well

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as public institutions, also plays a critical role. Please help us build the groundwork to move forward with a realistic, sustainable plan for bringing our infrastructure into the 21st Century. Without action, Illinois will not be able to attract or retain the residents or businesses it needs to be an economically competitive player on the global stage.

Sincerely,



Randall S. Blankenhorn  
Acting Secretary

# INFRASTRUCTURE TOUR



Transportation is the asset that distinguishes Illinois from the rest of the country. Our roads, transit systems, railroads and airports make Illinois the transportation hub of North America and provide us with a global economic advantage. But we are at a crossroads. Over the next six years, 40 percent of Illinois highways and one in seven bridges will be in unacceptable condition. The transit network's bus and rail system will not be adequately overhauled, leading to less reliable and underutilized service. School and other key state construction projects will continue to lag behind and fall into disrepair.

The Illinois Department of Transportation and Acting Illinois Transportation Secretary Randy Blankenhorn, in coordination with the Illinois Capital Development Board, invite you to take part in a series of informal public meetings being conducted throughout the state. Our mission over these next few weeks is to start a statewide conversation that lays the groundwork for a realistic, sustainable plan for bringing our infrastructure into the 21st century. This dialogue, emphasizing quality of life and economic growth, will establish priorities for future investment in our transportation system.

These meetings are intended to be a listening tour, sparking discussion that ultimately leads to a package of recommendations that can be presented to Governor Rauner and General Assembly for consideration this spring.

Dates and locations will be updated regularly at [www.idot.illinois.gov](http://www.idot.illinois.gov)

Modes of Illinois Transportation

